

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 381

Introduced by Ashford, 20.

WHEREAS, Ingrid Johnson, a nurse for over thirty years, recently participated in a medical relief trip to Haiti with Omaha Rapid Response (ORR), a nonprofit organization founded by members of various churches in Omaha in response to the increasing number of natural and manmade disasters around the world. Ms. Johnson's ORR team was comprised of four nurses, one doctor, and two emergency medical personnel. Each team member was responsible for financing their portion of the trip expenses. Many of the volunteers work full-time and were using paid vacation time to travel; and

WHEREAS, the team arrived in Port-au-Prince after two full days of travel. They stayed in a church courtyard. The church was damaged by the earthquake but was still standing, but the school was destroyed. Everyone, even those from the orphanages, slept outside. The team immediately went out into neighborhoods and started setting up medical clinics in the nearby tent cities. The tents were nothing more than shabbily hung sheets that provided shelter from the scorching sun; and

WHEREAS, Haitians would search out the team and soon long lines would form of those needing medical care. Virtually everyone had eyes that burned, women had kidney problems from not drinking

enough water, and many had wounds that had been treated previously but now needed redressing. Many had lost toes, broken legs, and open wounds. Some were transported to the hospital where they could get further care; and

WHEREAS, while part of Ms. Johnson's team held medical clinics, the men worked among the people, setting up a water tank in one neighborhood and obtaining food from some of the larger organizations so that they could distribute it to the smaller tent cities. They bought rice and beans which they were able to package up into smaller bags and then give out to the people; and

WHEREAS, the head of the ORR team, Brian Smith, met with leaders in the communities in advance and took their requests for immediate needs. ORR then purchased those items in the nearest city. This eliminated delays that can occur with other relief efforts and allowed the ORR team to travel to areas where other larger agencies cannot or will not serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature extends its appreciation and gratitude to Ingrid Johnson and all the members of Omaha Rapid Response for their selfless work in Haiti.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Ingrid Johnson.